



Holy Family Parish Polish National Catholic Church



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2nd Sunday of Advent December 8th, 2024



Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements (six months in advance), please contact the Parish Office by calling 412.678.0566.

Bulletin announcements should be received by Wednesday for Sunday publication.

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Fr. Mariusz Mularczyk, Pastor 412.330.8286
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Angela Mayfield, Parish Custodian 412.860.3498



OPENING HYMN

On Jordan's Bank – PNCC #21 (verses 1, 2 & 3)

Christ, Be Our Light!

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
BERNADETTE FARRELL

Congregation:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our
hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your
Church gath - ered to - day.

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The Light shines in the darkness,

but the darkness has not overcome it.

During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to rit. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

ENTRANCE HYMN (Malachi 3:1-2a)

C. Lo, I am sending My messenger to prepare the way before Me; And suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord Whom you seek,

R. And the messenger of the covenant Whom you desire, yes, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

C. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

FIRST READING

BAR 5:1-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship. Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God.

Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God.

The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,
we were like men dreaming.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad indeed.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the torrents in the southern desert.

Those who sow in tears
shall reap rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Although they go forth weeping,
carrying the seed to be sown,
They shall come back rejoicing,
carrying their sheaves.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING

PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

LK 3:4, 6

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL

LK 3:1-6

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *A voice of one crying out in the desert. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

The Gospel of the Lord.

CLOSING HYMN

There's a Voice in the Wilderness – PNCC #24 (verses 1, 2 & 3)

Church decorating for Christmas – Saturday, Dec 21, 10:00 AM

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS AND RELATIVES

Athena Becker, Stephen Pociask, Marian Sleczkowski, Al & Betty Ann Perhas, Ed Babish, Barbara Cook, Paul Koper, Ted Flora, Dave Guillot, Emily Guy, Marcy Raiford, Antoinette Drake, Marianna Pełka, Bronisław Korus, Anna Dryfik, Justin Riddle, Ford Bartle, Jeff McBride, Carol Davelli, Helene Tylor, Richard Tomkovitz, Meredith Straw, Colleen Kortz, Lori Tomko, Charles Koczera, Marlene Koczera, John Razukiewicz, Jane Contrella, Vicki Griffiths, Kiersten Donahoe, Rose Marie Korch, Renata Woś, Roberta Wagner, Lucas Etzel, Kellie Gates, Bishop John Mack, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Nate Lennon, Luca Milbower, Karyn Muse, Joyce Haber, Blair Lloyd, Justice Coddington, Martin Carney, Kathy Guy, Veronica Campbell, Cindy Puchka, Wendy Blotzer, Gail Coddington, Angela Mayfield, Gladys Bacco.

FAITH SHARING

The Second Sunday of Advent challenges us to prepare a royal highway in our hearts so that we may receive Jesus as our saving God on Christmas. We are asked to be ready to meet Jesus as our Judge on His *Second Coming*, at the end of our lives and at the end of the world.



In the first reading, the prophet Baruch introduces Yahweh, the God of Israel, preparing the way for, and leading the Babylonian exiles to, Jerusalem. Hence, the prophet invites the weeping Jerusalem to rejoice and go to high places to watch the return of the exiles.

In the second reading, Paul advises the Philippians to prepare themselves for Christ's Second Coming by practicing Christian love and by leading pure and blameless lives.

John the Baptist, in today's Gospel, challenges the Jews to prepare their lives for receiving their long-awaited Messiah. They are to prepare a highway in their hearts for their Messiah by levelling the mountains of pride and the valleys of impurity, injustice, and neglect and straightening their crooked ways. They are to get ready by repenting of their sins, changing their lives, and expressing their repentance by receiving the baptism of repentance in River Jordan and living out the reformations they have promised.

LIFE MESSAGE

We need to prepare our hearts and lives for Jesus our Savior to be reborn in us during this Christmas time. We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls. We have to straighten whatever crooked paths we've been walking. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution. If we have been harboring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away

all the debris. And we all have to level the “mountains” of our pride and egocentrism by practicing the true humility of rendering humble service to others.

We need to repent and seek forgiveness from God and those we have injured. We need to forgive others who have offended us and ask forgiveness for our offenses.

USHERS FOR SUNDAY COLLECTION AND HOLY COMMUNION

12/8/2024	Lenny Guy, Joe Lawrence
12/15/2024	Frank Pociask ,Stan Tadajski
12/22/2024	Bill Griffiths, Rich DeLong
12/29/2024	Don Newcamp, George Jobes
1/5/2025	Joe Parknavy, Shawn Davis



SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday Offering envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please take yours and help us to deliver them to your relatives and others who live in your neighborhood.



OPLATKI - CHRISTMAS WAFERS

Oplatki are available. Your free will offerings for Oplatki will support our choir and music in our church.

WIGILIA – CHRISTMAS DINNER

Today is the last chance to make reservations for our Christmas Dinner on **Saturday, December 14, 2024.**

CONCERT WORTH SEEING AND LISTENING

Come and enjoy a Holiday concert at St. John’s Cathedral Center in Munhall. The East Winds Symphonic Band will be performing on **Dec 15th at 3:30 PM** Admission is **FREE** and refreshments will be provided. See the flyer in the Narthex for details.

CENTER FOR VICTIMS

Center for Victims is in need of gently used winter coats for the residents of the shelter. Needed are sizes toddler to adult. Donations would be greatly appreciated. A collection box will be placed in the Narthex of the Church.

If you have any questions, please contact **Janice Griffiths** at **412-477-7061.**

PROJECT BUNDLE-UP – DONATED \$1,800.00

Holy Family was showcased during the noon news on WTAE on Dec 6. Holy Family PNCC Young Men's Society of the Resurrection **donated \$1,800.00.** Congratulations Gentlemen! Congratulations Holy Family Parish!

THE ADVENT WREATH MEANING AND ORIGIN

The Catholic Advent wreath is a cherished tradition observed during the weeks leading up to Christmas. The Advent wreath serves as a spiritual compass on our journey in preparation for the nativity of our Lord. It symbolizes hope, peace, joy and love through its four candles, each representing a week leading up to the birth of Christ. Let's explore the origin of the Advent wreath, the meaning behind the candles and how we can use it to grow in prayer this Advent season.

The origin of the Advent Wreath can be traced back to pre-Christian Germanic cultures who would light candles during the winter solstice to honor the return of the light. This practice was adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as a way to mark the season of Advent. The circular shape of the wreath represents eternity, reminding us of God's infinite love and presence in our lives. The greenery used to decorate it symbolizes everlasting life and hope given to us by Jesus. The lighting of the candles sequentially each week provides us with a tangible way to mark the passing of time and encourages us to reflect on the themes of hope, peace, joy and love.



The first candle, which is purple, represents **HOPE**. It reminds us of the unwavering hope we hold within us as we await the arrival of our savior. The second candle, also purple, signifies **PEACE**. It calls us to seek inner peace and also to spread peace to those around us. The third candle, which is rose-colored, embodies **JOY**. Lit on Gaudete Sunday, it serves as a reminder to rejoice that the coming of Christ is near. The fourth candle, purple like the first two, represents **LOVE**. It symbolizes the boundless love of God, which we are called to share with others.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH ILLUMINATING

Our church will be illuminated for Shepherd Mass and Christmas day Mass, indoor and outdoor, with candles in decorative moisture-proof bags, dedicated to any intention that you want to introduce to Baby Jesus; it can be your "thank you" candle, it can be your prayer request candle for living or deceased. Any intention is OK:

birthday, anniversary or your expression of love, friendship or if you miss someone who is no longer at Christmas table with you. Neither names nor written intention needed. Only how many candles you wish to order and your donation. Checks payable to "Holy Family PNCC" with memo "CANDLES". Suggested donation for each candle: \$4.00 (just to cover the cost). Limit 200 bags. First come, first served.



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 8, 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

† Raymond Kostovny – requested by Dolores Zoretich

† Joe Korch – requested by Daughter, Janet Korch

Monday, December 9, 2024 – Solemnity – Conception of the BVM

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

† Raymond Kostovny – requested by Dolores Zoretich

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – Advent Weekday

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 – Advent Weekday

Thursday, December 12, 2024 – Advent Weekday

Friday, December 13, 2024 – Feast – St. Nicholas

Saturday, December 14, 2024 – Advent Weekday

Sunday, December 15, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

† Edmund & Laura Adamek – requested by Karyn & Alexa

† Joseph & Marion Sanetsky – requested by Sharon & David Kish

† Josephine Tarli, Angelo Tarli – requested by Diane, Archie, Bob and Cindy

12/22/24 Su 10:00 AM 4th Sunday of Advent

† Johanna Pardoe – requested by Alexa Foster

12/24/24 Tu 10:00 PM Shepherd Mass (Pasterka)

For All Parishioners

12/25/24 We 10:00 AM Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord

For All Parishioners

12/26/24 Th 10:00 AM Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr

OPEN

12/27/24 Fr 10:00 AM Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

Mass with the blessing of wine (BYO Bottle for blessing)

12/28/24 St 10:00 AM Solemnity – Holy Family

For All Parishioners of the Holy Family Parish

12/29/24 Su 10:00 AM Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

OPEN

1/1/25 We 10:00 AM Solemnity – Circumcision of our Lord

OPEN

1/2/24 Th 10:00 AM Solemnity – Holy Name of Jesus

OPEN

1/5/24 Su 10:00 AM Solemnity – Epiphany of our Lord

† Josephine Tarli, Angelo Tarli – requested by Diane, Archie, Bob and Cindy

1/12/25 Su 10:00 AM Solemnity – Baptism of our Lord

OPEN

1/19/24 Su 10:00 AM 2 Ordinary Sunday

OPEN

1/26/24 Su 10:00 AM 3 Ordinary Sunday

OPEN

2/2/24 Su 10:00 AM Solemnity – Presentation of our Lord

OPEN